



# PRESS RELEASE

## Land Commissioner David Dewhurst

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### **DEWHURST DEDICATES FRANK M. TEJEDA TEXAS STATE VETERANS HOME IN FLORESVILLE**

AUSTIN—Texas Land Commissioner David Dewhurst today dedicated the Frank M. Tejeda Texas State Veterans Home in Floresville. The new facility, designed for Texas veterans who need skilled, long-term nursing care, will start admitting residents in the near future.

"It gives me great pleasure to dedicate this fine home for Texas veterans, who deserve our deepest gratitude," Dewhurst said. "This could not have happened without a team effort between the Texas Veterans Land Board and the fine people of Wilson County. Now we can help our loyal Texas veterans, who have given so much to America."

Dewhurst said the facility is named after the late Frank M. Tejeda, a native of Bexar County who earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam with the U.S. Marine Corps. Tejeda also served in the Texas Senate from 1987-1993 and in Congress from 1993-1997. He was a strong advocate for veterans and worked closely with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain a VA outpatient clinic for Bexar County. He passed away in 1997.

"Frank Tejeda would be proud to see his name on this home," Dewhurst said. "I know this because most of his life was devoted to serving his nation, and Texas veterans in particular."

Dewhurst said the Tejeda State Veterans Home, along with similar facilities in Temple, Bonham and Big Spring, will house 160 veterans in spacious rooms. Veterans will benefit from a broad spectrum of healthcare services, a comprehensive rehabilitation program, special diets, recreational activities, social services, a library, a gift shop and a secure 32-bed Alzheimer's unit complete with its own secure yard. "This home is a good deal for everybody," Dewhurst said. "Texas veterans will receive high-quality care in a home designed for their needs, the local community will enjoy a big economic boost and Texas taxpayers will save their hard-earned money."

Dewhurst, an Air Force veteran and Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB), said Texas may need up to 40 state veterans homes to serve the growing number of aging veterans in the state. Dewhurst said approximately 500,000 of Texas' 1.6 million veterans are 65 or older.

"Each state veterans home should save Texas taxpayers about \$1 million a year in Medicaid costs," Dewhurst said. "Host communities will benefit from the 150 jobs and \$3 million annual payroll created by each home, as well as the 60 jobs created indirectly."

Dewhurst was joined at the ceremony by U.S. Rep. Ciro D. Rodriguez, D-San Antonio; Sen. Carlos F. Truan, D-Corpus Christi, who Chairs the Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, who Chairs the Senate Human Services Committee; Carl Zenner, President of the Wilson County Memorial Hospital District Board; and members of the Texas Veterans Land Board.

"This home-away-from-home for Texas veterans will soon provide them with dignified professional care," Dewhurst said. "We can never repay these fine men and women for their sacrifices, but we will strive to ease their suffering."

Dewhurst said additional information on Texas State Veterans Homes is available from Robin von Rosenberg at (512) 475-2336. Information about VLB loans for homes, land and home improvements is available on the Texas General Land Office Web site at [www.glo.state.tx.us](http://www.glo.state.tx.us), or by calling (800) 252-VETS. The VLB's new San Antonio office is at 3700 Fredericksburg Road, Suite 241, and its phone number is (210) 738-0537.

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